

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Good Education

By Walter E. Myer

ONE of the marks of a good education is the acquisition and practice of good taste. The well trained person seems to know just what to do or say on every occasion. He knows how to dress, how to choose his reading, when to joke, and when to be serious, how to select his friends. He shows good taste, we say, in all his dealings with people.

Good taste manifests itself unflinching in the choice and the wearing of clothing. To be well and tastefully dressed one need not turn to the most expensive articles of apparel. As a matter of fact, individuals show poor taste in dressing more expensively than others in their group can afford. It is a mark of good taste for one to dress as his associates do, providing they are neat in appearance.

Good taste never dictates gaudiness. The well dressed individual avoids that which is conspicuous and which sets him off from his friends. One's clothing, like his personality, should be such as not to attract attention but to be pleasing and appropriate to all occasions.

In conversation taste is a decided asset. It is ordinarily not in good taste for a small group to discuss a subject with which the others in the circle are unfamiliar. One of the first rules in conversation is to bring everyone into the discussion. This rule does not apply in all cases but it should usually be followed. Another rule is to avoid remarks which might hurt the feelings of some who are present.

Good taste in reading cannot easily be achieved but one will not miss the mark as a general rule if he reads books which well informed people find informative or inspiring. The more one reads the more his own standards will be raised. The wide reader will eventually find the literature which is most useful and helpful to him. He will decide what is and what is not in good taste.

The same general standards by which one judges books may also be applied to newspapers and magazines. One should sample various periodicals and determine those which have lasting value. As he develops good taste, he will discard those which are merely sensational.

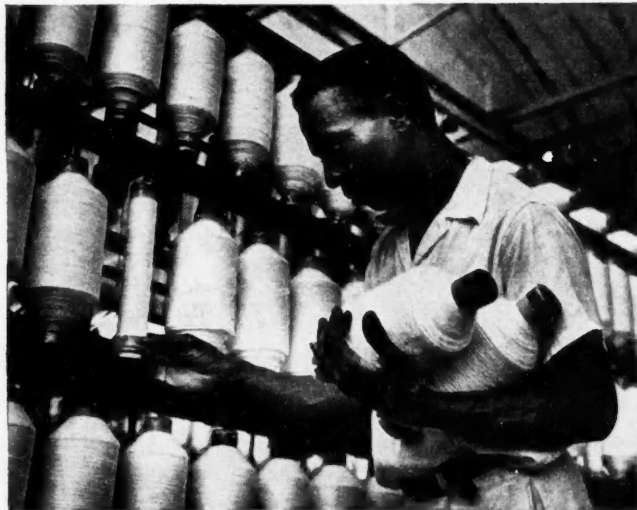
One may develop taste in many fields. In music or other arts it is achieved through study and observation. One will come to enjoy ways of life and ways of thinking which are approved by people who are well educated.

The acquiring of an education is largely a matter of developing good taste all along the line; in dress, speaking, conversing, reading and in other broad fields of experience. It is largely a matter of good judgment. It is not achieved in a day or a month, but it comes with the years as one moves upward to higher levels of thinking and of conduct.

One must have the goal of good sense and sound judgment in mind and must move consciously toward it before he reaches the higher levels.



Walter E. Myer



MILSON FROM BLACK STAR

A SPINNING MILL in Leopoldville, Belgian Congo, is one of Africa's new industries

Progress in Africa

Programs for the Continent Call for Expanding Facilities in Fields of Education, Transportation, and Health

IN the struggle for power among the great nations of the world today, Africa is playing a role of ever-increasing importance. The United States and Britain have air bases in North Africa. The Belgian Congo is a rich source of uranium, used in the making of atomic bombs. Many other vital industrial and agricultural materials are coming from that continent to strengthen the western nations.

Africa has long been tagged "the unknown continent" and "the dark continent." Since World War II, however, many nations have taken a fresh look at this vast area. That conflict emphasized again Africa's strategic location. The war also brought more than one million Africans into the ranks of Allied fighting forces and put African resources into Allied weapons.

As a result, new and greater significance is now attached to Africa. The continent today finds itself labeled with new nicknames and descriptive phrases. It is spoken of as "tomorrow's hope," "challenge to the west," and "future partner of free nations."

This area which is claiming increasing international attention is the world's second largest land mass. Only Asia is larger. Africa's territory—11,500,000 square miles—is greater than all of North America (Canada, the United States, and Mexico) plus Australia. Yet Africa, covering almost 20 per cent of the world's land surface, has only 7 per cent (or 190 million) of the earth's population.

Some African resources are well known. The diamond mines, which supply more than 95 per cent of the world's production, the gold and chrome deposits, which yield about half of the earth's supply, are familiar to all. In addition, approximately one fifth of the world's tin and man-

ganese comes from Africa. Some experts say that African copper deposits are among the world's richest reserves. There are supplies of asbestos, bauxite, iron, and limestone. The raw material of atomic energy—uranium—is there in abundance.

There are other mineral resources, but the variety and the extent of the deposits are unknown. There has never been a thoroughgoing geological survey of the continent. This lack of information has resulted in varying predictions of what is likely to be found, and some of them are probably exaggerated.

Still, it is safe to say that Africa can make a greater contribution to world trade than it now does and it is no exaggeration to state that millions of Africans, whose cash income for a year is seven to ten dollars, can have a better standard of living. The belief that these possibilities can come true is spurring development plans.

To learn of these plans, we must look to Europe. For Africa is a continent of colonies. Only three countries—Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia—are independent, though the Union of South Africa is a self-governing dominion of the British Commonwealth. The rest of the territory is owned or controlled chiefly by Belgium, Britain, France, and Portugal.

Each of these countries has scheduled improvements for the colonies. Some plans were prompted by the post-war economic difficulties of the colonial powers, and have received U. S. Marshall Plan help. But a substantial number are long-term plans—"investments" from which the "landlords" expect to receive little or no return for a number of years.

Many of these projects are being

(Concluded on page 2)

Heavy Financial Burden for U.S.

Vast Expenditures for National Defense Will Mean Tax Increases for Everyone

THIS month the people of the United States have received sharp reminders of the sacrifices that our defense effort is to require. In a series of messages and reports to Congress, President Truman has set high goals of armed strength. He declares that an increasing share of our national output must go for military purposes.

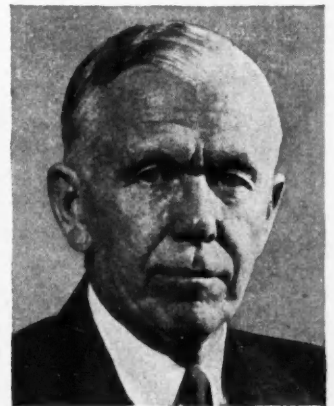
Putting his statements into concrete terms the President has asked that Congress approve the spending of 71.6 billion dollars during the federal government's next bookkeeping year—41.4 billion to go for military expenses. The President also says the American people will be asked to work hard, cut down on their use of many kinds of goods, and "pay much higher taxes."

Moreover, government leaders are emphasizing the fact that our defense burden will probably remain heavy for a period of years. Our Communist opponents are powerful and they are not likely to weaken in the near future. In order to resist them, the United States has to build strong military forces and keep them strong. Americans must take it for granted that they are starting a long, difficult pull.

It would be short-sighted of course, for civilians to regard their sacrifices as particularly heavy, at a time when soldiers, sailors, and airmen are being required to give so much more. The average civilian is perhaps worried by the fact that new cars may become scarce, or possibly he is depressed because of his rising income taxes. But the weary infantryman in Korea, fighting in sub-zero temperatures, would gladly trade places with him.

The real hardships are those of the servicemen. Except in case of air raids or invasion, civilian sacrifices

(Concluded on page 6)



HARRIS & EWING

SECRETARY MARSHALL. The Department of Defense, which he directs, will get a big share of federal expenditures next year.

Dark Continent

(Concluded from page 1)

launched with government funds. Africa, the most underdeveloped of the underdeveloped areas, must first have several basic improvements before private business will be attracted to it. For example, the continent has only five per cent of the world's railroads. Its regular coastline means that there are few good natural harbors. Its rivers—some of the mightiest of the world's streams—play little part in transportation because of their rocky beds and precipitous falls.

This lack of adequate rail, sea, or inland water transportation is a serious handicap to African development. But to remedy it, the colonial powers are building new roads, rail lines, and aviation facilities. Britain, Belgium, France, Portugal, and South Africa have earmarked a total of more than one billion dollars to be spent for transportation improvements during the next five to eight years.

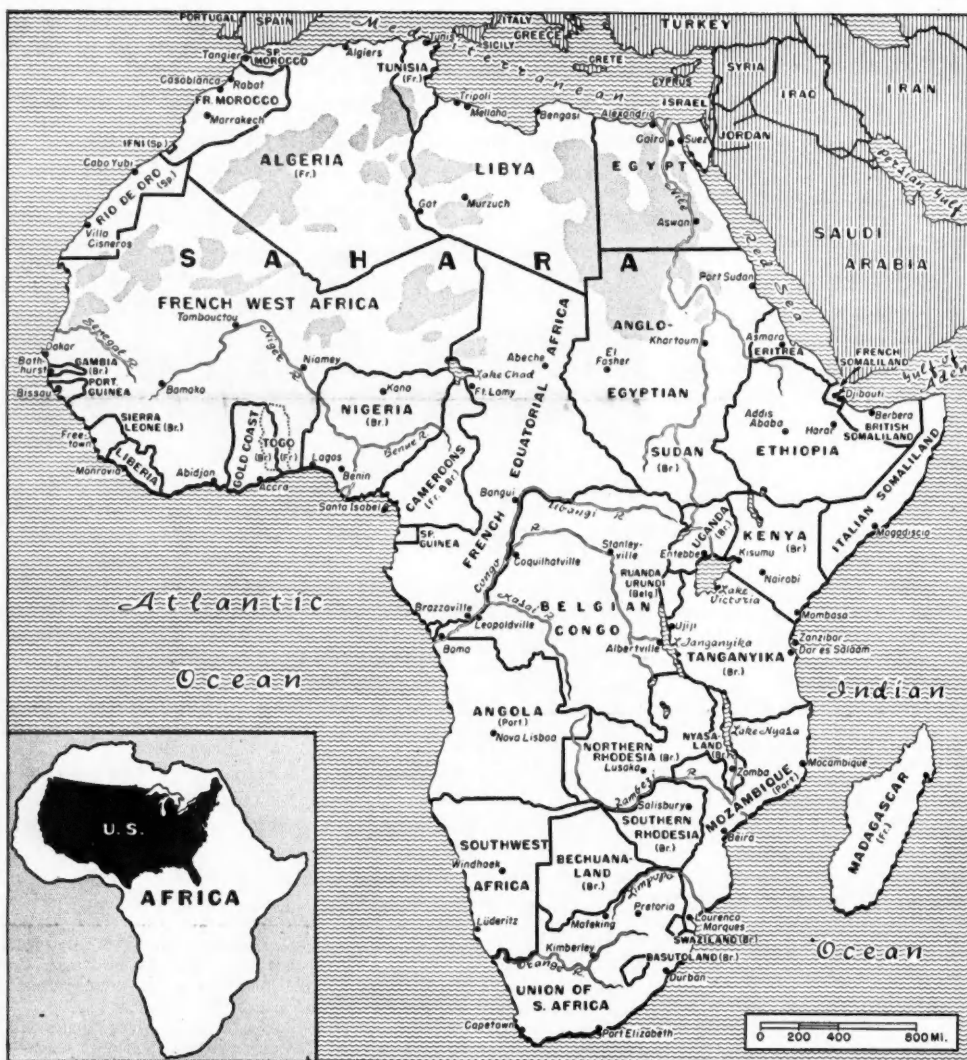
Development plans cannot be fulfilled without human resources. Men and women eager to work at the tasks at hand are needed.

No one suffering from the tropical diseases which beset large areas of Africa can be an enthusiastic, willing worker. An individual whose diet has for years been inadequate and poorly balanced does not have the stamina and energy a good worker needs. A man who has lived as his ancestors did cannot use 20th century tools without the proper training.

So health and education are other long-range investments of African landlords. Native peoples are being taught hygiene, nutrition, and good health habits. Farmers are being encouraged to practice soil conservation so that crops will be larger and nourishing food more plentiful. Scientists are striving to develop vaccines and medicines which cure and prevent tropical diseases. A cure now being tested promises to conquer one of Africa's worst diseases—sleeping sickness.

More education, better transportation, and improved health conditions are the foundations on which Africa's future development will be built. In addition to these programs, each of the colonial powers is at work on other projects tailored to the needs and resources of specific areas. Britain, for example, has begun construction of a large dam near Lake Victoria in Uganda. It will be used as a "storage bin" for water when rainfall is plentiful. In times of drought, the waters will irrigate farms in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Egypt.

There will also be electric-power



MAP FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

installations at the dam. So this one project will bring 21,000,000 acres of farm land under cultivation and provide electricity for industries.

Belgium has launched a 10-year program for the advancement of its valuable colony, the Belgian Congo. At the present time, this area is almost altogether mining territory. There is little manufacturing or farming. Most of its natives live as best they can in jungles and forests; 85 out of 100 do not work at jobs which pay wages.

The Belgian government wants to see the Congo go several steps beyond a mining economy. It hopes to develop industries which will process the area's minerals or manufacture goods

from them. It seeks to encourage efficient farming which will produce food enough for the people who live in the area.

A significant project now under way in Portuguese colonies is the expansion of cement factories. These will furnish new jobs for many workers. But more important from the viewpoint of the continent's welfare is the fact that substantial supplies of cement, the backbone of highways, airports, industrial plants, and other improvements, will be available within Africa itself.

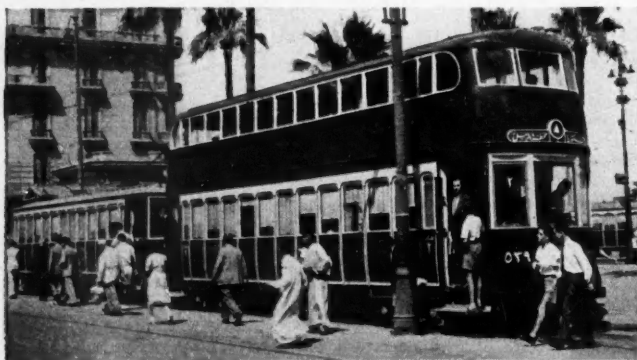
France is concentrating a great deal of its overseas investment in North Africa. A schedule of irrigation systems to be built during the next 10 years has been set up. The lands watered in this way will fill pressing needs for additional food supplies in this area, and will make semi-arid sections suitable for grazing animals. Hydroelectric-power plants will be coupled with some of these irrigation systems to produce current for new and expanded industries.

Among the industries slated for expansion in the area are the mining of phosphate rock and the manufacture of that into fertilizer. One of Africa's most desperate needs is fertilizer. Generations of farmers who have known nothing of crop rotating or other conservation practices have stripped the soil of its richness and vitality. Now land, as well as people, needs more nourishment.

There are other activities going on in Africa which attract scant attention though they may point the way for future development. These are the experiment stations or pilot plants where new industries have been set up on a trial basis. France has one such project, and plans a second, for turning part of Africa's forest resources into pulp for paper. Britain is preparing to establish a large poultry-raising program. Land is being cleared and will be planted in feed grains. Factories will be erected to freeze or process the eggs and meat for shipment to other nations or other parts of the continent.

These projects will determine whether or not it will be possible and economical to introduce such industries to the continent. If they work well in the experimental stage, they may be expanded. Or private business may take them over.

In his book, *Bold New Program*, (Harper; \$3), Willard R. Espy has this to say about Africa: "Europeans are aware . . . of the fatefulness of the steps that are now being taken. It is to Africa, after all, that Europe must turn first for markets and raw materials when Marshall Plan funds are no longer available. Washington, by providing expert personnel and permitting use of the Marshall Plan counterpart fund for African development, has indicated its own awareness of the key role which Africa will play in the coming years. . . ."



A DOUBLE-DECK STREETCAR in Alexandria, Egypt. Some of Africa's cities are extremely modern.

Magazines and Newspapers

"Manager Plan Hits 1,000," editorial in *National Municipal Review*.

A significant, but generally overlooked, result of the elections last fall was the fact that a considerable number of communities voted to adopt the council-manager form of local government. At that time the number of U. S. communities having this type of government was brought to 1,003. The "manager plan" usually consists of an elective council of five who represent the people and determine policy and a manager whom they select to administer the city government.

Nowadays most communities which adopt the manager plan do so for common-sense reasons. They simply recognize that local government can be provided more satisfactorily with a trained administrator than by transient amateurs in the driver's seat. Most qualified observers believe that this sensible, businesslike method of administering community business may become standard within 10 years.

"How Fair Is the Draft?" by Stanley Frank, *Nation's Business*.

The high rejection rate of men found physically or mentally unfit for military service has defense officials worried. If the armed services continue to reject youths of military age at the rate they have been, the United States will not have the 800,000 recruits needed every year to keep its armed forces at the minimum level needed for the nation's security.

The fact is that we are likely to have manpower troubles so long as the armed forces continue to look upon every recruit as a potential combat man and reject those with minor physical shortcomings. This is unrealistic, for in World War II less than five per cent of all men in the armed forces saw, much less fought, the enemy.

What we must do is come around to the view held by every other country, friendly or hostile. Other nations do



DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

not reject every man from military service if he is not a first-rate physical specimen. They operate on the theory that a job can be found in the service for any man of military age who is gainfully employed in civilian life. Many who do not qualify for combat can be competent clerks, truck drivers, mechanics, guards, cooks, and technical specialists.

Not only would the use of men with lower physical standards in noncombatant capacities solve the manpower problem, but it would be more fair and more democratic. There would be less complaining if everyone knew he was in the same boat with all other members of his generation.



SOLDIERS learning to fire submachine guns. Should we increase our forces in Europe?

The Question Is Debated

Troops to Europe?

IN Congress and throughout the country, there is sharp disagreement over a great issue in foreign policy: Can the President send American soldiers to fight overseas without the permission of Congress?

President Truman and other administration leaders declare he has the legal right to do so, and that therefore he can dispatch additional U. S. soldiers to join a North Atlantic army. Other national figures, including senators of both parties, insist that he consult with the national legislature before making any such move. Our European allies are watching anxiously, meanwhile, for the outcome of this debate.

Before discussing the arguments on both sides of the issue, let us glance back through history to see how other Presidents have acted in this regard. As we do so, we find that American forces have been sent abroad on more than 100 occasions without formal declaration of war or official approval by Congress.

As early as 1798, in an undeclared war between the U. S. and France, President John Adams ordered our Navy to resist the French and capture their ships. Three years later, President Thomas Jefferson sent naval forces to attack the North African state of Tripoli. In another undeclared conflict in 1900, President William McKinley ordered our soldiers into action in China. President Woodrow Wilson sent U. S. troops into Mexico under General John J. Pershing in 1916.

These and other past actions by Presidents are cited by supporters of Mr. Truman on the question of whether he has the power to send our forces abroad. They argue further:

"The record is absolutely clear. Time after time, throughout our history, Presidents have dispatched soldiers abroad without special consent by Congress. The reason for this privilege is obvious. If the Chief Executive did not have the power of taking quick military action, without waiting for Congress to debate indefinitely, we might have suffered serious military defeats before this.

"Furthermore, there are several practical reasons why Mr. Truman now should be able to send our troops to join the North Atlantic Army without going to Congress about it. This

country was one of the leaders in the agreement providing for that army, whose purpose is to halt Communist invasion of western Europe. General Dwight Eisenhower already has accepted the job of leading it, and other nations have promised troops. It would make Europeans lose faith in us and probably damage the chances of the North Atlantic Army if we were to stall on the question now."

Persons taking a contrary view, argue along these lines:

"Of course, it is true that in the past Presidents have sent troops abroad without special congressional permission. But today circumstances are far different. Our country is now faced with the worst crisis in its history. This is a time when all-important moves should be decided, not by the President alone, but by the whole people, through their Congress.

"It is important to remember, too, that even if the President has the legal power to send troops overseas, which is doubtful, it is Congress that must vote money to supply and pay them. So if the President does not seek the approval of the nation's lawmakers on this issue, they may simply withhold funds for sending troops abroad, and he will not be able to do anything about it.

"Neither Mr. Truman nor the country itself will lose any prestige if he seeks the approval of Congress on an issue of such tremendous importance. On the contrary, the sensible thing for the President to do is convince Congress that his policies are sound, and in that way get the support of it and the whole nation. In such an event, his decisions will carry far more authority throughout the world than they will if he does not follow this procedure."

President Truman has not opposed all congressional action on the issue of troops to Europe. On the contrary, he stated recently at a press conference, he would welcome a Senate declaration endorsing the dispatch of U. S. soldiers to Europe. Such an action, he said, would make him happy. But, he added, he would take whatever action should be necessary in a given military situation. He repeated that his authority to send American forces abroad was clear under our Constitution.

Newsmakers

In Congress

FOUR of the hardest working senators in Washington, as Congress tackles history-making problems, are the majority and minority leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties, and their two assistants known as whips. They are the men who plan the day-to-day strategy of their respective parties in debates and in actual voting on bills. Brief sketches of the four follow:

Senator Ernest McFarland, a Democrat from Arizona, is the new majority leader, who succeeded Senator Scott Lucas, of Illinois, defeated in the November 7 elections. McFarland, 57 years old, is considered a moderate or "middle-of-the-road," rather than a "Fair Deal," Democrat, because he has sometimes voted against Administration legislation. As majority leader this year, he has a difficult job because the Democratic majority now is a scant one—just two votes.

Senator Kenneth Wherry, Republican of Nebraska, as minority leader, is McFarland's opposite number. The Nebraskan, who also was Republican floor leader in the last Congress, has been called a "thorough party man." He has frequently and vigorously opposed foreign and domestic legisla-



McFarland



Johnson

tion supported by Mr. Truman's Administration.

Senator Lyndon Johnson, Democrat of Texas, is assistant floor leader, or whip, for the majority party. Johnson, at 42, is a veteran of more than a dozen years in Congress. He is known generally as a loyal supporter of the President's Fair Deal program but, like McFarland, has voted against it on occasion. Johnson has made news as chairman of a committee investigating the nation's mobilization program.

Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Republican of Massachusetts, is that party's whip, in the upper chamber. Saltonstall is popular with both the so-called "liberal" and "conservative" wings of his party, and as such is an effective floor leader. The 59-year-old senator has been active on important committees.

The name Saltonstall is famous in New England. Eight former governors of Massachusetts are among his forebears and he himself was governor for three terms before coming to the Senate. The Senator is the tenth Saltonstall in a direct line to go through Harvard University.



Wherry



Saltonstall

The Story of the Week

Stassen Is Hopeful

According to Harold Stassen, president of the University of Pennsylvania, the prospects for world peace are brighter now than at any time in the last three years. Mr. Stassen, who recently returned from a world tour, agrees that the danger of world war is still "very real," but he thinks the situation is improving.

During his tour, in which he traveled 34,000 miles by air, the former governor of Minnesota talked to leaders of many countries in Asia and Africa. On the basis of information he learned from them, and from other observations, he arrived at conclusions that provide hope for the free world. Three



HAROLD STASSEN, back from a round-the-world tour, thinks prospects for peace have improved despite the Korean war. The University of Pennsylvania president, a former Republican governor of Minnesota, believes there is a chance the Red Army would rebel if Russia started a war.

reasons are advanced by Mr. Stassen for his belief in the improved prospects for world peace:

1. Throughout the whole world there is taking place an "awakening to the evils of communism." This awakening is vital in increasing the resistance of free nations to the spread of communism.

2. People everywhere, including those in satellite countries now controlled by the Soviet Union, want peace and freedom. Because of this, Russian rulers face rebellion, and even the Red Army may join it if Russia begins a war of aggression.

3. The United States and other peace-loving countries are rearming, thus discouraging aggression.

In a television debate, Mr. Stassen took issue with those who question the President's right to send troops abroad, and he pledged full support to General Dwight Eisenhower if he goes ahead with the task of building a European Army.

Press Freedom

Freedom of the press exists in only a few of the world's nations, according to a recent survey made by the Associated Press. The AP states that in past months, news censorship has tightened in Communist countries, but has slightly improved in some other areas.

In spite of the recent increased censorship of news from the Korean struggle, the press survey found it the "most freely reported war in modern times."

Some nations, the AP says, censor only a few types of news dispatches;

troop movements and other defense activities, for example. Others maintain strict control over newspapers all the time and censor all reports written by foreign correspondents before the dispatches are permitted out of the country.

Russia and the nations under Soviet control are top offenders in exercising these rigid controls. In fact, most of the Iron Curtain countries have expelled all but the Communist reporters.

The Communist countries, though, are not the only ones that have barriers against the free flow of news. Spain, Portugal, Italy, and many others are guilty, but most of these nations, as well as anti-Russian Yugoslavia, are reported to have lessened censorship controls.

In Latin America, where controls over news are widely practiced, the AP found greater press freedom today than at any time in recent years. Newspapers in Argentina, and those in some other South American countries, have made great strides toward free expression, the press survey states.

Youth Traffic Council

The first Young People's Traffic Council in the country has been formed in Washington, D. C. At the suggestion of Washington's Traffic Director, students from 36 public, private, and parochial high schools joined in forming the Council, which will advise Washington officials on the problems of young motorists.

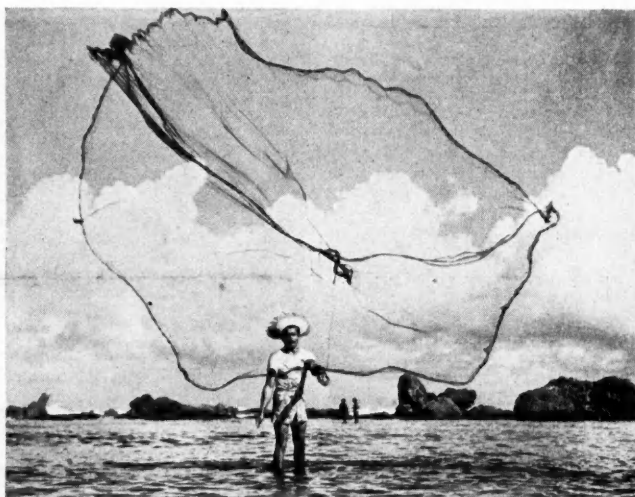
At its first session, the Young People's Council met with the Traffic Director, George Keneipp, to discuss the whole question of driving by teenagers. Keneipp asked for suggestions on how to combat criticism of young drivers, and he posed the following questions (which will be debated at coming sessions of the Council):

1. Should the minimum age limit for driver's licenses be changed? (It is now 16 years in the District.)

2. Should driver's examinations for persons under 25 be made easier or harder?

3. When a licensed person allows a person under 16 to drive, should both be punished?

Then students were asked to express criticisms of older drivers. In answer, boys and girls rose to protest against various types of offenders, in-



SARDINE FISHING in Puerto Rico. An expert tosses a net into the water to trap the fish. The job requires skill and patience.

cluding: drivers who blow their horns needlessly; those who use the wrong lane to make turns, and who weave in and out of traffic; motorists who occupy more than the necessary parking space.

A final complaint was against drivers of certain official cars who take advantage of their privileges. In Washington, those driving automobiles owned by foreign embassies and legations are not, as a rule, arrested by local police.

Air Force Grows

Our Air Force is growing by leaps and bounds. It is being built up to a strength of "95 to 100 flying groups," officials announce, which is about double its size before the Korean war. At that time the Air Force had fewer than 500,000 officers and enlisted men, in 48 groups. It is now scheduled for a total of 971,000.

(Flying groups vary in size. In general, there are 75 fighter planes in a group, and 1500 men. A heavy bomb group is authorized to have 30 bombers and 1900 men.)

In order to raise its personnel to the new limit, the Air Force recently recalled to active duty all its units in the Organized Reserves and the National Guard which had not already been recalled. Previously, more than 50,000

Air Force Reservists had been summoned back to service. Another way personnel has been growing is through voluntary enlistments.

Air Force officers have not fixed a date for reaching the 971,000-man goal. It will be reached "just as soon as possible," they say.

Working with "Ike"

While General Dwight Eisenhower moves ahead with his job of forming a North Atlantic Army, another American is busily planning ways to supply it with guns, planes and tanks.

This man, who already has been called the "Eisenhower of the assembly line," is a veteran business executive named William Herod. He accepted the post as head of the Atlantic Pact's production board after being urged to do so by Secretary of Defense George Marshall.

Mr. Herod, who is 52, has been president of the International General Electric Company. A resident of New York City and a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, he was graduated *magna cum laude* from Yale University in 1918, and joined the General Electric Company the following year. In succeeding years, he climbed steadily up the promotion ladder until in 1945 he was made president of the international concern.

Because he has had business dealings in many lands during the course of his career in private business, his supporters say he is particularly well qualified to direct the production end of the new army of a dozen nations. During World War I he was a field artillery officer, and in the last world conflict he served as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force.

Price-Wage "Freeze"

In the last session, Congress acted to halt the inflation which followed the outbreak of the Korean war. It voted the government power to control prices and wages, and the Economic Stabilization Agency was set up to put such controls into effect, at a suitable time.

However, though prices continued to rise, the ESA did not immediately use all the powers Congress had given



BLIND WORKERS FOR DEFENSE. These women at the California State Center for the Blind are making pillow cases for the armed forces. They run the machines ably and quickly.

it. Some controls were imposed, but no general "freezing" of prices and wages was ordered. One reason was that the government did not have the required staff to enforce the new restrictions.

A short time ago, however, Charles Wilson, who directs the whole mobilization program, announced the time had come to use the "power of law" to halt inflation and regulate the economy. The government took a series of drastic actions.

Alan Valentine, the Economic Stabilization Administrator (who is under Wilson), was allowed to resign. Mr. Valentine, the former president of the University of Rochester, had not used controls fast enough to suit the President and Mr. Wilson. Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, was made Economic Stabilization Administrator, in his place.

Under the new leadership, the ESA is taking steps to roll back prices, wages, and rents to the levels which they reached a month or so ago. Later, these price-and-wage ceilings will be adjusted from time to time.

Literary Contest

Students with ambitions to write prose or poetry can compete for prizes and distinction in the 1950-51 contest sponsored by *The Atlantic* magazine. Prizes of \$100 each will be awarded the student composing the best essay, poem, or story in the competition.

In addition, contestants can also compete for a four-year college scholarship. The University of Pittsburgh offers the scholarship to the writer of the essay, story, or poem, entered in the contest, which in the university's opinion shows the most promise, regardless of its final standing in the



COWBOY BOOTS for an orphan lad evacuated from the Korean mainland to Cheju Island. The boots are among many gifts sent by Americans to orphaned refugees from the war.

contest. The main rules of *The Atlantic* competition follow:

It is open to all high school and private school students who are "enrolled as using regular classroom subscriptions to *The Atlantic* in a course during some part of the school year from September 1950 through March, 1951."

Essays or stories must not exceed 3,000 words, and poems should be no longer than 60 lines. (No one student may enter more than three poems in the poetry contest.)

All papers must reach *The Atlantic* office not later than April 16, 1951 and should be addressed to: Atlantic



BERLIN broadens its news coverage. This broadcasting car belongs to the American-sponsored radio station RIAS in Berlin. It is one of three assigned to covering newsworthy events on the spot.

High School and Private School Contests, 8 Arlington Street, Boston 16, Massachusetts.

Papers entered in the contest must bear no mark of identification other than the title of essay, story or poem. Every paper must be accompanied by a separate statement signed by the student affirming that the work is original, not copied from any source, never before published, except in a school paper, and not submitted in any other national contest. (The required form will be furnished by *The Atlantic*.)

New Atomic Weapons?

The United States is making marked progress in its development of atomic weapons. To check up on its progress, the Atomic Energy Commission is taking over a huge new testing ground in Nevada.

The Nevada site, which covers 5,000 miles in the lower part of the state, has been used by the Air Force as a bombing and gunnery range. Just what experiments will be conducted in this expanse, miles from any civilian population, are secret. The announcement of the commission was deliberately vague and guarded. The new testing ground will be used "periodically," the AEC stated, for certain "activities," which were not defined.

The Washington Evening Star, in an editorial, suggests that the Nevada site may be the scene of experiments designed to develop new atomic weapons. "We may be moving toward the production of guided missiles with atomic warheads, or perhaps the atomic artillery shell—an advance that could revolutionize ground warfare . . ."

One reason significance is attached to the coming Nevada tests is that Chairman Gordon Dean, of the AEC, says "much" is expected from them. Another leader on atomic matters, Senator Brien McMahon, of Connecticut, declares the forthcoming experiments promise to strengthen the nation's security by "saving precious weeks" in making vital weapons tests.

Oil in War

To wage modern war nations must have great supplies of oil. Because the Soviet Union does not have enough petroleum, she is not now in a position to fight a global war, a number of experts claim.

Emphasizing the importance of gasoline and oil in present-day warfare, the *AP* points out that: On a trip between Europe and this country, a modern bomber burns more than a tank car of gasoline and 10,000 pounds of lubricating oil. In fighting on the ground, an average tank travels only two miles to a gallon of gasoline.

For such petroleum-expending warfare, the *AP* declares, "the West is set up to carry on indefinitely" but Russia, according to the experts' belief, is only supplied for a "lightning war." In this connection, the newspaper wire service gives these figures on petroleum production:

The United States produces 2.3 billion barrels a year and the Western Hemisphere more than 3 billion. Russia, on the other hand, is turning out only 324 million barrels, according to estimates of men who work for U. S. oil companies and experts in the government.

However, it must be remembered that if Soviet Russia could gain control of oil fields in the Middle East, she would be in a much better position to wage a long war. As of now, western democracies use about 660 million barrels of petroleum a year from wells in the Middle East.

Family of Stars

One of the outstanding college basketball players this season is an all-around athlete who has a name famous in American sports. He is Dave Sisler, of Princeton University, the son of George Sisler, one of baseball's greatest first basemen, and the younger brother of Dick Sisler, star outfielder of the pennant-winning Philadelphia Phillies.

Dave, a sophomore, is a six-foot-four-inch forward, who has helped the Tiger quintet to victories with his excellent team play and personal scoring. In a two-day tournament at East Lansing, Michigan, he scored 15 points against Ohio State and 16 points (high for his team) in the title game against Michigan State.

However, young Sisler's athletic prowess is not limited to basketball. Carrying on his family's tradition for baseball excellence, he was an outstanding pitcher for the Princeton freshman team last year. Among his six victories was a no-hit game against the Hill School. He also played football in high school.

The 19-year-old athlete also is an excellent student and a leader in his class. He is attending Princeton on a regional scholarship which requires "promise of leadership" as well as high grades. Dave is vice-president of his class. Away from the diamond or the basketball court, he is said to be quiet and serious. A student of engineering, last summer he worked in a machine shop.

"Surplus" parts of the President's White House, which is being repaired, will be sold as "souvenirs" early next month. Articles offered vary from old handmade nails to fireplace stones, and prices range from 25 cents to \$100.

The history of the U. S. Marine Corps is shown in an exhibit on display at the Truxton-Decatur Naval Museum in Washington, D. C. The museum, named for two early American naval heroes, Thomas Truxton and Stephen Decatur, specializes in exhibits relating to the maritime history of our country.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Sergeant: "Company—attention! Lift up your left leg and hold it straight out in front of you."

One of the men held out his right leg by mistake, so that his leg was next to his companion's left leg.

Sergeant: "And who is that galoot holding up both legs?"

A man at the opera is seated behind a person who explains the plot aloud to his companion. Finally he leans forward:

"Excuse me, will you speak a little louder. Sometimes the music prevents my hearing what you say."

"Say, that lot you sold me is 15 feet under water."

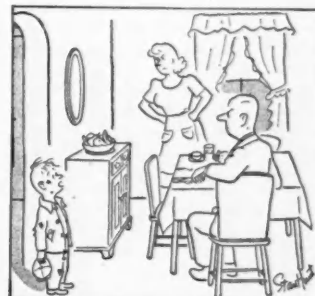
"Yes, I know. I also sell boats."

A boss is a man who is late when you are early, and early when you are late.

Intelligence is like a river—the deeper it is, the less noise it makes.

A woman never knows what kind of dress she does not like until she buys it.

"Can you let me have a little money?"
"I guess so. About how little?"



"Would you care to hear my flimsy excuse?"

U. S. Budget

(Concluded from page 1)

will always be small by comparison.

Nevertheless, everybody is being asked to make his contribution, large or small, to the defense of the nation. According to President Truman, expenses of the federal government will swallow up about a fourth of all that the American people earn during the year beginning next July. A major part of the federal expenditures will go to pay for the military program we are undertaking.

In order to get a clear picture of the government's plans, let us examine the budget proposals which President Truman sent to Congress earlier this month. All these proposals are for the period that begins with July 1951

connected with our nation's struggle against communism.

So when we are counting the whole amount that the world struggle is to cost our government during the bookkeeping year 1952, we must add *foreign aid* to the cost of our *military* and *atomic energy* preparations. All these together make up about 50 billion dollars—well over two thirds of the estimated outlay for the year.

A big slice of the remainder goes to take care of expenses that have arisen because of past wars—principally World Wars I and II. About 5 billion dollars is to be spent on veterans. The money will go for hospitals, pensions, benefit payments, and the like. Nearly 6 billion dollars will be needed for paying interest on our huge national debt, most of which was created in time of war.

By the time the government has

connection with the 1952 budget is this: How is our government going to raise the money?

World War II was financed largely through borrowing. The national government went 57 billion dollars into debt in the bookkeeping year of 1943 alone.

Unless taxes are sharply increased, the nation will have to borrow again on a large scale. Under present tax laws, it is estimated, the government will take in revenues of about 55 billion dollars during the bookkeeping year of 1952. This falls approximately 16½ billion dollars short of the expenditures in Truman's budget.

Mr. Truman, however, does not want our government to increase the size of its debt. He favors a "pay-as-we-go" policy, even though this policy would require a tremendous boost in taxes. The President admits

like to buy are scarce. If people use their increased earnings to bid for scarce goods, prices will rise rapidly and throw our economy out of balance.

President Truman says that if the government imposes high enough taxes to pay for the defense effort, people will have less to spend and there will not be so much pressure to drive prices upward. It is argued that the average American family will, after all, be able to buy nearly as much if we have high taxes and moderate prices as it could buy if there were lower taxes and soaring prices.

As we go to press, President Truman has not yet sent Congress a detailed request on tax measures. His administration has, though, given some advance warnings.

In a recent report, the President's economic advisers declare that there must be "drastic increases" in income tax rates. These increases are expected to hit practically everybody. A family of three, which paid an income tax of nearly \$320 on last year's \$4,000 income, may find itself paying about \$440 on such earnings this year—if Congress adopts President Truman's recommendations.

Taxes on the incomes of business corporations, already heavy, are likely to be raised still further. So are federal levies on gifts and inheritances.

Additional Source

Another tax whose use probably will be widened is the *excise*. This is the tax that is paid by purchasers of jewelry, furs, luggage, theater tickets, cosmetics, and many other items. Taxes on such items now amount to 20 per cent of the price. Congress was preparing to reduce excise levies last summer, but all hopes of cutting taxes vanished when the Korean war began. Many observers predict that excise taxes will be increased.

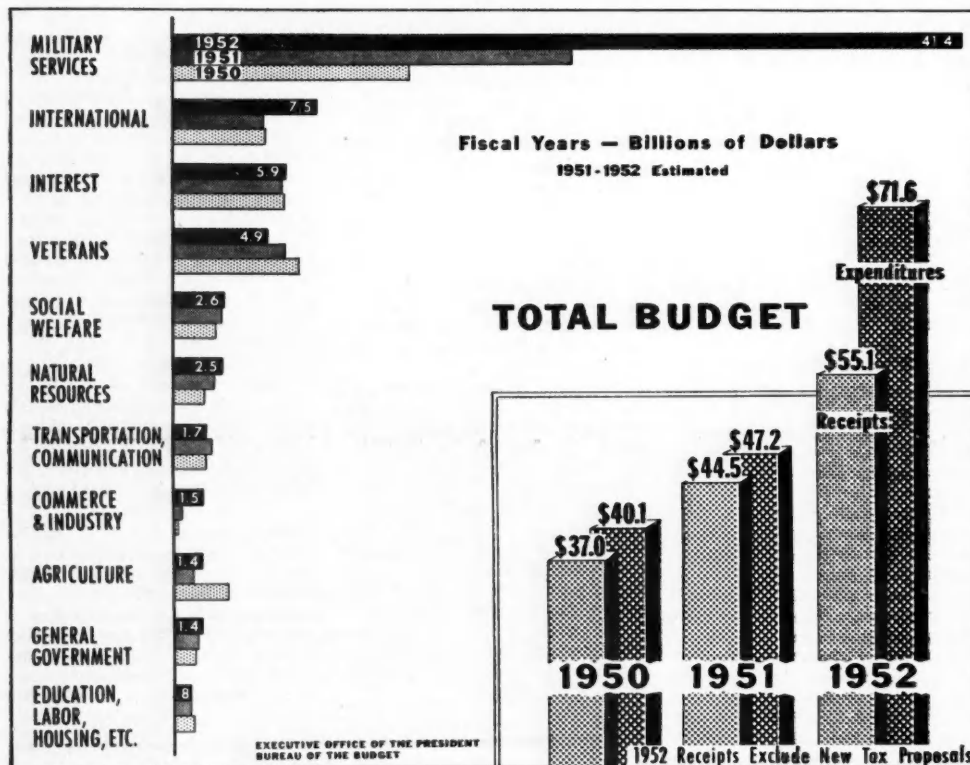
Congress will spend a great deal of time debating the President's tax program. Mr. Truman's recommendation that taxes be raised to cover the government's huge expenses will receive sharp criticism from many people.

Congressmen who dislike the Truman tax program say that the President's proposed levies on individual incomes would discourage people from putting forth their best efforts, at the time when hard work is most needed. It is feared that the wage-earner may say, "What's the use to work hard if taxes are going to take such a big slice of my income?" Likewise, it is argued, extremely high taxes may discourage corporations from expanding their output.

President Truman's tax plan is not the only part of his financial program that is under attack. Many congressmen feel that he wants to spend far too much. There is comparatively little objection to his views on defense spending, but opponents criticize some of his other proposals. Among these are his plans on farm aid and on federal aid for schools.

It is widely felt that the President should not insist on such programs in a time of national emergency. Truman, on the other hand, thinks they are needed, now more than ever, to help strengthen our nation.

The outcome of the tax debate cannot be fully predicted, except for the following: First, the tax burden upon the American people is almost certain to get heavier—nobody knows *how much* heavier. Second, the hardship of paying taxes will continue to be far less severe than the hardships which our fighting men must undergo.



THE CHART above compares the funds asked by President Truman for the 1952 bookkeeping year (beginning next July 1) with the amounts spent by different branches of the government in the 1950 and 1951 bookkeeping years. It also shows how total expenses have been comparing with total receipts. Taxes will have to be sharply increased if the government is to be able to meet all its expenses for the 1952 bookkeeping year without borrowing.

and ends with June 1952. That period is the government's "fiscal," or bookkeeping, year of 1952. Most appropriations have already been made for the present fiscal year—1951—which ends next June.

In the bookkeeping year of 1952, says President Truman, the government will need to spend a total of 71½ billion dollars—1½ times as much as the present year's estimated outlay. Never before in our history, except during the three peak years of World War II, have national expenses run so high. Military costs will take more than 41 billion dollars, or 58 per cent of the total figure. Another 1¼ billion goes for atomic energy projects (included in the "Natural Resources" item on the chart).

Foreign aid programs, according to the plans of the Truman administration, will call for more than 7 billion dollars, or 10 per cent of the total. This foreign aid, whether it be machinery and raw materials, or whether it be guns and ammunition, is directly

taken care of the national security and war costs which we have just described—military, foreign aid, veterans' benefits, and interest—it will have spent nearly 61 billion dollars, or 85 per cent of its total budget. Less than 11 billion dollars will be left for all the remaining activities of the U. S. government—such as conservation of soil and timber, operation of federal courts, and so on.

Congress will make careful studies of the President's budget requests, and on some items the lawmakers may grant less than the administration wants. But it seems likely that the bulk of the recommended budget for 1952 will be approved. Congressmen agree overwhelmingly that a vast outlay of funds for defense is essential.

If we are plunged into a full-scale world war against Russia, of course, present budget plans will be discarded. Few people would dare to estimate how much the United States might have to spend on such a conflict.

One of the main issues to arise in

that we would be forced to go heavily in debt in case of an all-out war, but he thinks we should avoid borrowing under present conditions.

Here are the reasons why President Truman and his advisers prefer taxation to borrowing:

The United States government is already in debt to the extent of more than 256 billion dollars. As a result, we have seen, it must pay interest of about 6 billion dollars a year. If we increase our debt by a fourth or by a third, the interest burden will become heavier in the same proportion. The President says we should not add to the nation's future load in this way.

Furthermore, Mr. Truman and his advisers believe that high taxes are needed for the purpose of draining away vast amounts of the money which federal defense spending will put into circulation. Wartime incomes are generally high, because jobs are plentiful and a great many workers receive extra pay for working overtime. But, meanwhile, items that civilians would

Science News

Work is now going ahead on the nation's TV network. Before the end of 1951, the web will reach from coast to coast, linking together cities which so far have no video connections with other communities. When the lines are completed, programs originating in any of the cities can reach the entire system. The hookup will not only make coast-to-coast television possible, but it will also provide additional lines for telephone conversations. The network is not simply a peacetime improvement. In case of all-out war, it will be a strong part of our communications system.

★

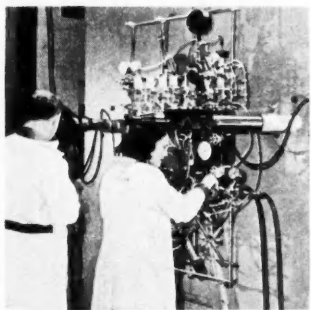
A large number of blood plasma substitutes are now under study by medical scientists. One of the most promising, called dextran, was developed in Sweden about five years ago. The National Resources Council has authorized a limited use of the synthetic plasma in the armed forces.

★

The British are testing a jet-propelled fighter airplane which resembles a flying-boat. Since it can take off and land on water, it needs no airfields. Instead of flying inland to refuel at distant airports, this craft can refuel from supply tankers in bays and inlets. The flying-boat is powered by two jet engines.

★

Scientists are looking for farm tools and seed grains in the ruins of Jarmo, in Iraq. They hope their findings will provide a link between the cave man and the first man to till the soil. Samples of wheat and barley found in the



ACRE

GIANT STEEL DOORS seal off experiments with "hot" atoms while scientists watch through periscopes in a laboratory just completed at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York.

ancient ruins have been sent to the United States so that American scientists can determine their age. The early people to whom the grain belonged may have lived 7,500 years ago.

★

The United States Forest Service reports that it is getting control of the spruce beetles which have already destroyed four billion board feet of timber in Colorado—more timber than has been destroyed by fire in the Rocky Mountain region in the past 30 years!

Since last July, more than 1,000 men have been spraying infected trees. Because of the roughness of terrain, power equipment proved impractical, and the spraying has had to be done by hand. When the workers were stopped by cold weather, they had covered about 700,000 trees. The work will be continued in the spring.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER goes through the Panama Canal

ACRE

Panama's Defenses

Article in *Collier's* Argues that Canal Is Not Properly Guarded. Army Spokesman Says It Is Well Protected

THE planners of American defense have stressed the military value of the Panama Canal ever since we opened it in 1914. In both World Wars I and II, the canal made it possible for the armed forces to transfer warships, troops, and supplies quickly between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Plans undoubtedly exist for a similar use of the waterway if a third world war begins.

Is the canal, important for the military and for commercial transport as well, being properly guarded? A startling article by Lester Velie, in the January 20 issue of *Collier's* magazine, says "No." The canal, Mr. Velie writes, is "stripped of practically all military protection." He says that no fighter planes are on hand, that there is little naval equipment, and few troops.

The Department of Defense stopped giving out detailed military information about the canal after the Korean war began, in order to keep the enemy from getting exact reports on our strength. Nevertheless, an Army spokesman tells *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER* that careful plans have been made for protecting the canal.

A security check is made of every arriving ship to see that none carries explosives which might wreck the waterway. There is a constant watch against sabotage. If an emergency arose, fighter planes and troops could be rushed from U. S. bases within a few hours.

A sneak attack, the dropping of just one atomic bomb, could put the canal out of commission. Thus there is always an element of risk. Yet, in balancing the needs in Panama with those elsewhere in the world, the Army seems to feel that proper defense plans have been made.

The canal has had a colorful history. As early as 1534, King Charles V of Spain dreamed of building a Panama waterway. He ordered a survey but no construction was undertaken.

A French company finally started building the waterway, in the 1880's, but malaria and yellow fever struck down the workers and the French exhausted their funds. The United States then became interested in the canal. We obtained rights to the

Canal Zone, 50 miles long and 10 miles wide, upon payment of \$10,000,000 to the government of Panama in 1904; in addition, we agreed to a yearly rental payment of \$250,000, which later was raised to \$430,000. We bought French interests in the project for \$40,000,000.

Under the direction of Colonel W. C. Gorgas, famous in military medical history, we cleared the jungle and drained the swamps to eliminate disease-bearing mosquitoes. Colonel George W. Goethals directed the huge task of construction. Most of the waterway had to be built on a plateau 85 feet above sea level. One eight-mile section had to be cut out of a ridge of the Continental Divide.

The canal locks are 110 feet wide, which is not wide enough to handle several of the newest ships of the U. S. Navy. There has been discussion of building an entirely new canal; at present, however, it has been considered wiser only to improve capacity of the old locks.

Population of the Canal Zone is about 53,000. North Americans and West Indian Negroes, most of them employees of the canal administration, are the chief inhabitants. Balboa Heights is the administrative center. Brigadier General Francis Newcomer is the zone's governor now.



DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY CRAIG
GATUN LAKE is a part of the Panama Canal

Readers Say—

I notice that one of your readers has written you a letter in which he says this:

"We believe in freedom of government and conscience, the right of people to govern themselves. This right must apply to all people, Yugoslavians included."

This reader seems to believe that the Yugoslavs voluntarily chose communism as their form of government. Communism, as we know it, has never been adopted in a country by the will of the majority of its citizens. I see no reason why the democracies should support a Communist regime as bad as Stalin's just because it is anti-Russian.

JON UTLEY,
Washington, D. C.

★ ★ ★

I believe we should continue to give aid to Franco Spain, not only because we are giving it to Communist Yugoslavia, but because of Spain's location on the Mediterranean Sea. Ships must pass through the Strait of Gibraltar which is dominated by Spain. Therefore, this would prove a strong point in the event of war with Russia.

In addition to its being strategically located on the Mediterranean, the terrain is of a nature that offers natural barriers, chiefly the Pyrenees Mountains.

DOLORES FERRILL,
West Lawn, Pennsylvania

★ ★ ★

Should we accept Japan's help in the fight against communism? Until Japan is an independent nation, my answer is "No." However, when Japan is ready to make democracy work by herself, that is, without American aid, we should make a peace treaty, thus giving her full independence.

If we still are distrustful of Japan and afraid to accept her military strength in the fight against commu-



nism, then our whole purpose has been defeated. Why teach the Japanese democracy, if we won't permit them to make it practicable.

JANET WELLS,
Maplewood, Missouri

★ ★ ★

In a recent article you say that the United States has been aiding the French in Indo-China. The article also states that the French are trying to stop communism; yet communism is aided by those who help France gain a stronger control over the people. All the people want is freedom and a right to govern themselves. I'm sure that if France gave them a chance, and the United States helped them with military aid, the non-Communists could overcome the Communists completely. Then there would be one less trouble spot in the world.

VIDA JEAN SEGAN,
Chisholm, Minnesota

Career for Tomorrow

To help our readers make their vocational plans at this unsettled time, this column is discussing a number of general problems that arise out of the present conditions. Next week we shall continue our regular articles on specific occupational fields.

PERHAPS the question that is uppermost in your mind right now, as you think about the career you want to enter is this: How will the present critical times affect my plans for the future?

No one can answer this question with certainty, of course, and answers will differ for different groups. First of all, we have the young men of 18 and 19 who face the possibility of being drafted. Their chance of carrying out their vocational plans may seem pretty remote. They will spend one, two, or three years in the service, depending on the law Congress enacts. Planning now to enter college or begin any kind of vocational training at 21, 22, or 23 seems to be far off. Why, then, bother to pick out a career?

There is plenty of reason, we answer. Young men who go into the services must, it is true, concentrate on military training. But the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force require many of the skills that civilian industry requires; and these branches of the service are just as interested in finding the right person for the right job as are civilian industries.

Furthermore, the armed forces are ready, willing, and able to train their men in a wide variety of skills, most

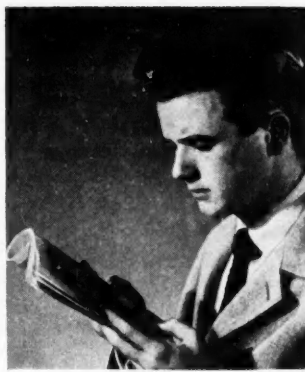
of them useful in civilian life. In many cases, then, the draftee will find that his military service has actually trained him for a career.

A young man who has planned to go to college faces a somewhat different problem. His military training may not be immediately useful to him in his vocational life. The veterans of World War II, however, give encouragement to this group. After years in service, many came back, went to college, and often outdid their younger classmates who were not vets. Military experience and added maturity helped rather than hindered them.

A third problem arises for young women and for the young men who are not drafted. "Should we go ahead with our plans for vocational training," they ask, "or should we take unskilled jobs, now that manpower needs are so great?"

These questions can be answered only by the individuals concerned in the light of conditions as they develop. In general, though, young people should go ahead to get the best possible training for the work they want to do. Mobilization and production will cause a shift in the demand for workers. More nurses and fewer models will be needed. The demand for engineers will be greater than that for editors.

Nevertheless, all kinds of workers will be required, and young people today have as good an opportunity as did their elders to choose their vocation and prepare themselves for it. Many, especially the young men who are drafted, may have to postpone



HOW CAN YOU choose a career in these unsettled times?

their training. Others may find that the present situation opens new opportunities to them. The following suggestions are directed particularly to the persons who may be drafted, but others may find them useful.

1. If you are not called immediately into the service, go ahead with the plans you have made for going to college or for finding a job.
2. If and when you are called, turn willingly to the tasks your country requires of you.
3. Keep your vocational plans in mind and look for opportunities to get training in the service for work that interests you.
4. When you return to civilian life, don't be discouraged at having to pick up your training and education anew. Let the World War II vets be an inspiration to you.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Study Guide

U. S. Budget

1. According to the President's budget proposals, how much money is the federal government to spend during its bookkeeping year of 1952?
2. Give some figures which will illustrate the fact that a major share of our government's expenditures is to go for defense and war purposes.
3. What type of spending is receiving the most support?
4. About how much money will the United States need to borrow during the 1952 bookkeeping year if Congress approves the President's spending program but fails to pass any new tax laws?
5. Why does President Truman believe that we should meet the government's added expenses through taxation rather than through borrowing?
6. On what grounds do some people oppose the President's views on this subject?

Discussion

1. In your opinion, is Mr. Truman justified in urging the government to spend substantial sums of money on farm aid, federal aid for schools, and similar programs, in a time of national emergency? Why or why not?
2. Do you agree with the President's view that taxes should be high enough to cover the proposed government expenditures for 1952? Explain.

Africa

1. Why is Africa spoken of as "tomorrow's hope" or the "challenge to the west"?
2. List five of the continent's outstanding resources.
3. Why must one look to Europe to discover the plans that are being made for Africa's development?
4. What is being done to improve transportation on the continent?
5. Name two other fields in which long-range investments are being made.
6. What two resources will be provided by the large dam which is being constructed by the British near Lake Victoria in Uganda?
7. Discuss improvements that are suggested or are under way in at least two other parts of Africa.
8. Why is the need for fertilizer in many parts of Africa so great?

Discussion

Which of the African projects that are under way or have been suggested do you think most important? Explain your choice.

Miscellaneous

1. How does Harold Stassen regard prospects for world peace?
2. Discuss the purpose of the Youth Traffic Council of Washington, D. C.
3. How greatly is our Air Force being expanded?
4. What new job has William Herod taken over?
5. Discuss the new price-wage freeze now being put into effect.
6. Why is Russia's reported lack of oil a hopeful sign?
7. During what periods has our federal government had to borrow to pay its expenses?

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Historical Backgrounds - - Federal Deficits

IN past crises—in periods of war or depression—the federal government regularly borrowed money to pay its expenses. The government had to do so because taxes never brought in enough income to meet emergency costs that arose during such periods.

President Truman's proposed plan to increase taxes so that we can pay for our present defense program as we carry it out is, then, a departure from past practices. If the President succeeds in getting enough income to pay the expenses of government in the coming business year—from July 1951 through June 1952—he will accomplish a task that has been done only twice since 1930.

The two years since 1930, during which federal government income was greater than expenses, were both under President Truman's administration. In the 1946-47 business year, the surplus of income over expenses was comparatively small—about 750 million dollars. The surplus for 1947-48 was a large one, about 5½ billion dollars.

Federal budget deficits—that is, lack of sufficient income to pay government expenses—have existed at various critical periods in our history. In the early days of our independence, however, these deficits were small. From the time that our Constitution went into effect in 1789 to 1801, the average yearly deficit was only \$59,000!

From 1801 until the War of 1812, the federal budget was balanced; there was an average yearly surplus of income over expenses of nearly 4 million dollars. Because of the conflict that started in 1812, government expenses

increased; deficits averaged nearly 3 million dollars a year through 1820.

For a number of years after 1820, the government had no unusually heavy expenses. Then, partly because of the Mexican War, 1846-48, there were several years of federal budget deficits. For the most part, however, Uncle Sam got enough income from taxes, tariffs, and other sources to pay his bills. He did so, that is, until the Civil War began.

The Civil War brought about a huge



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H. A. E.

WAR SENT the federal budget skyward during the administrations of these two American Presidents. Abraham Lincoln is on the left; Woodrow Wilson on the right.

boost in federal government expenditures. The country started out in 1789 with a federal budget of less than 6 million dollars. This was increased gradually to about 60 million dollars a year in the 1850's.

Suddenly, in the war emergency of 1861, the government had to start spending hundreds of millions. The average outgo for the years 1861-65 was more than 680 million dollars. Government income for this period was only 160 million, so there was an average yearly deficit of 522 million.

World War I brought the next era

of great deficits in operation of the federal government. In the years 1916-20, we spent an average of more than 8 billion dollars a year, took in less than 3½ billion, and had to borrow 4½ billion dollars a year.

The depression of the 1930's launched another period when Uncle Sam did not meet his bills out of income. The government undertook emergency measures to help railroads, banks, farmers, and the unemployed through the difficult years when business was bad. This took 2¼ to 4 billions more a year than taxes brought in.

World War II, of course, brought our greatest spending and deficits. In the peak year of 1945 we spent over 100 billion dollars, and had a deficit of nearly 54 billion dollars. Although we spent a bit less in 1944, about 96 billion, we had our biggest deficit then—more than 57 billion dollars.

Because we have borrowed so frequently to meet emergency expenses, the federal debt has mounted to huge sums. In 1916, the debt was a little less than 1¼ billion dollars. In 1939, when World War II began in Europe, it was 40½ billion dollars. In 1946, the year after the war, the debt was more than 269 billion. It was reduced somewhat in 1947 and 1948. Since then, however, it has climbed, and is now nearly 260 billion dollars.

In the present crisis, should the government tax the people heavily enough to meet its huge expenses, or should it again borrow on a large scale and increase the national debt still more? That question is debated in the budget article which begins on page 1 of this paper.